

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 12, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Auditorium and Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Maia-Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Valerie Zuercher; Mark Rafanelli, and Robert Bollengier. Member Mary Walsh arrived at 7:15 p.m. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross, Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar, and Student Member Raymond Moore were present.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Member Bollengier read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum – None

Recognitions/Achievements – High School Football Team – Super Bowl Champions – Superintendent Geismar offered congratulations to the Sr. High School Football Team coaches and players for their 2010 Division IV Super Bowl win. Principal Butler called each player forward and expressed how very proud EWG can be of the players

and the teamwork and team spirit they have shown. Chair DeSack presented Coach Messier, Coach Jim Alves, and Coach Steve Alves with School Committee Apple Recognition Awards. Superintendent Geismar said that a football that the coaches and players will sign, along with a plaque from the RI Interscholastic League will go in the trophy case to commemorate this great team. These items will symbolize all the hard work team members put in and the great job they did on and off the field. On behalf of the School Committee, Chair DeSack and Vice Chair Cicero presented the team with a 2010 Championship banner to display in the gymnasium and Member Rafanelli handed out gift cards to each player.

Mary Walsh arrived at this time, (7:15 p.m.).

After a brief refreshment break, the School Committee relocated to the library to complete the remainder of the meeting, (7:23 p.m.).

Kevin Fraser – Coach of the Year – Chair DeSack advised that Coach Fraser's recognition will continue to the next regular meeting agenda.

Presentation – Student Member Report – Student Member Raymond Moore reported that the student body has returned after a full week of vacation and is preparing for final exams. He said that overall students are quite content. The Student Council has begun to prepare its presentation on the grading system for the next School Committee meeting.

Students are gearing up for the end of the first semester and the start of the second semester.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA - Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda. He referenced item VI. B. 2. a. and explained that if this discretionary leave of absence request is granted, the District will be obligated to pay Ms. Colomb's salary and benefits. GEMS-Net will pay the district \$65,000 per year to cover Ms. Colomb's replacement costs during her absence. Dr. Geismar said he could not say whether \$65,000 will cover Ms. Colomb's replacement because it is too early to tell if her replacement will be someone from the recall list or a new teacher. He said that \$65,000 does not cover Ms. Colomb's salary and benefits. In response to Member Bollengier's inquiry, Dr. Geismar said that the committee can only grant a 1-year leave at this time according to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. However, if the leave is granted, the committee needs to understand this is a 2-year commitment. He explained that the idea is that Ms. Colomb will receive professional development and training in the area of elementary science and the District will benefit from this. Dr. Geismar said he plans to check again with GEMS-Net to see if they will be able to compensate the District more than \$65000 per year.

Referencing item VI. B. 3. a., the Superintendent said that Diane Drake has taught in the District for many years, she has had a long wonderful career, and she will be missed.

Member Bollengier requested to pull item, VI. B. 2. a. from the consent agenda.

Vice Chair Cicero made a motion to accept the consent agenda with item, VI. B. 2. a. pulled. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of December 8, 2009, Special Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2010

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Joshua Procaccianti as Sr. High School Assistant Wrestling Coach, Stipend \$947.85; Effective for the 2009 – 2010 season

2. Leaves of Absence

a. Pulled

3. Resignations – (As Recommended by the Superintendent, with Regret)

a. Letter of Resignation from Diane Drake for the purpose of Retirement, from her position as 4th Grade Teacher at Metcalf

School, effective June 30, 2010

4. Grievances

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 12, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 3

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of 343,648.07

D. Home School Approvals

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence – (1) December 2009 EWGRSD Discipline Report; (2) December 2, 2009 EWG Regional Sr. High Discipline Report; (3) January 4, 2010 Memorandum to School Committee from Superintendent Geismar Regarding School Committee Presentation Schedule for 2010

In response to Member Bollengier's inquiry regarding Correspondence (1), Chair DeSack requested the Superintendent bring Correspondences (1) and (2) back to the next regular meeting in a different format in order to better clarify the contents of the reports.

Monthly Budget Projection 2009 – 2010 – Chair DeSack asked members if they had any questions, comments or concerns regarding the monthly budget projection. Member Bollengier said he will save

his questions for tomorrow night's Budget Workshop.

Budget Update 2010 – 2011 – Chair DeSack reminded members that tomorrow night's budget meeting begins at 6:00 p.m.

Monthly Status Reports – Superintendent – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding the monthly status reports.

Business

Special Education

Maintenance

Technology

Monthly Subcommittee Report(s) – Town Finance/Charter Review Subcommittee – Member Rafanelli reported that the Town Finance/Charter Review subcommittee met last Thursday evening. The meeting minutes are forthcoming within the next 10-days. The subcommittee has four recommendations to bring to the School Committee at its January 26, 2010 meeting. This item will continue to the next regular meeting agenda.

New Business – Sr. High Ski Trip Approval – Member Walsh made a motion to approve the high school ski trip. Member Zuercher seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

District Treasurer Search – Superintendent Geismar informed members that the district treasurer position has been advertised on SchoolSpring.com and in the Sunday Providence Journal. Dr. Geismar said that this item is ongoing and he will keep the committee informed.

2010 – 2011 Calendar – Superintendent Geismar told the committee that the proposed 2010 – 2011 school calendar has been reviewed and agreed upon by the administrative team and the union president. In response to Member Rafanelli's inquiry regarding Sr. Project presentation day taking place on a Thursday instead of Friday, and Chair DeSack's inquiry as to why Sr. Project is scheduled so late in the year, Vice Chair Cicero said that she will bring these concerns to the steering committee for discussion.

Member Bollengier made a motion to accept the 2010 – 2011 School Calendar as presented. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

Member Bollengier requested Chair DeSack back up to agenda item, District Treasurer Search. He asked if District Treasurer LaCroix

leaves [scheduled to leave on February 26, 2010] prior to finding a replacement for her position, who will sign the checks. Chair DeSack said that under the bylaws, she has the authority to sign checks in the absence of the treasurer. Dr. Geismar said that Ms. LaCroix will be available for the District to call upon if she is needed. Member Bollengier said that Ms. LaCroix will not be able to sign checks if she is no longer employed by the District. Chair DeSack said that Ms. LaCroix's resignation cannot be accepted until she has exhausted all of her benefit time. Therefore, Ms. LaCroix will remain an employee of the district until March 26, 2010.

Unfinished Business – Washington County Regional Planning Council – Support Letter Approval – Superintendent Geismar welcomed Maura Sayre and Jeff Broadhead of the Washington County Regional Planning Council (WCRPC) who are back to answer questions and to give a quick review of the program. Mr. Broadhead referenced his last School Committee meeting visit of November 24, 2009, and gave a brief recap of the information he had provided during his last visit. He said it is his understanding that further explanation is needed regarding potential audit costs to the district. He clarified that in the unlikely event the District is in a situation that it has to pay for the investment grade audit; the energy efficient conservation block grant money, that has come in to the state of RI and the state has allocated to the towns, will be used as a backstop. He further explained that if those funds are not used for the audits, those monies go directly into the projects and get used within each

town. The WCRPC is not able to cross town boundaries with those dollars. However, those dollars may be able to cross boundaries within a regional school district if proved beneficial to both towns. In that case, Mr. Broadhead said that he would then meet with both town councils for approval. Mr. Broadhead summarized that if there is a cost for the audit, he believes that as of tomorrow night it will be covered. He explained that he recently met for the first time

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 12, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 5

with West Greenwich representatives Robert Butler, Kevin Breene, and Jennifer Paquet, who were all very supportive of participating. Mr. Broadhead said that he anticipates that tomorrow night West Greenwich will agree to participate. Which will mean that they will take the town's stimulus funds, which could be used strictly for West Greenwich town buildings, and generously give those dollars to the school district to backstop the audits.

Member Walsh made a motion authorizing the Superintendent to sign a support letter for the Washington County SEP/EECBG Application. Member Rafanelli seconded the motion.

Member Bollengier said that he would support the motion if the motion were amended to include with the application a separate letter from the Superintendent simply stating that the District's understanding, based upon the representations made before the

entire School Committee, that the district will not be financially prejudiced as a result of any project going forward. He expressed his concern that he does not want to be upside down on a project. He said he will endorse this if he knows it is not costing the district any money. Mr. Broadhead advised that this support letter will only authorize for the RFQ to select the performance contract. He will bring the entire list of recommended projects to the School Committee to decide which projects, if any the Committee wishes to pursue.

Chair DeSack called for a vote on the motion as made and seconded. Voted 6 – 0 – 1 in favor. Member Bollengier abstained. Motion carries.

Transportation Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross gave an overview of his Out of District Transportation Projection December 21, 2009 enclosure. He reported that during one of his meetings with RIDE representatives, he specifically asked what will happen if the transportation costs for EWG exceed the budget and the District does not pay the bill. The response was that the state contractors are working to get credits and adjustments to rates so that the District does not incur costs that are above its budgeted amounts. Mr. Ross told the School Committee that one of his ongoing concerns has been that he does not know what type of deal RIDE is brokering on the District's behalf. Chair DeSack summed up that this is the first year for the state out of district transportation program. It is what it is

and the District will not pay the bill if it comes in over budget. The numbers presented tonight have improved, and the School Committee is going to need to decide whether to sign on again next year. Mr. Ross pointed out that the District has been lucky this year in the area of special education transportation costs and the District still needs to resolve the Chariho bus issue.

Capital Project Update – Superintendent Geismar reported the water system at Metcalf School has been winterized. Punch list items are being addressed. There is more work to do and the work continues.

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 12, 2010
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 6**

Consideration, Discussion, and Vote on Participation in “Race to the Top” Grant –

Superintendent Geismar gave a brief description of the meeting he attended today at RIDE.

Reports/Comments – Chair DeSack reverted to the consent agenda item pulled by Member Bollengier. Member Bollengier said that he pulled item VI. B. 2. a. because he thinks the School Committee can only grant a 1-year leave and not a 2-year leave of absence. The motion to approve should grant a 1-year leave with the knowledge

that it will be a 2-year commitment.

Member Bollengier made a motion to approve consent agenda item VI. B. 2. a. for a 1-year leave of absence for Catherine Colomb in connection with her serving as a Teacher-in-Residence in GEMS-Net, with the knowledge that the School Committee understands this is a 2-year commitment. Because of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Committee can only vote to approve 1-year. Member Zuercher seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

Important Dates and Meetings – Wednesday, January 13, 2010-Budget Workshop (SPED, Districtwide/Facilities/Athletics, Elementary); Tuesday, January 19, 2010-Budget Workshop (Jr. High, Sr. High); Tuesday, January 26, 2010-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, February 9, 2010-School Committee Meeting; Thursday, February 11, 2010-Joint Meeting; Friday, February 19, 2010-Notice to Canvassers; Tuesday, February 23, 2010-School Committee Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – None

Adjournment – Vice Chair Cicero made a motion to adjourn. Member Bollengier seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK